News Release Communiqué

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CANADA'S NEW GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN NEW YUKON TOURISM PROJECT

WHITEHORSE, YUKON (February 7, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (INAC) and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, is pleased to announce an investment of $1.75 million over two years for the Great River Journey - an adventure tourism project that will take clients on a trip along on the historic Yukon River.

The project is a partnership between Great Northern Journeys Inc. and the FNIC Development Corporation, a consortium of First Nations. The investment will be used for project development, including the creation of a business plan, market research, site research and development and staff training. It is expected that over the next five years more than 30 jobs could be created in the region, and revenue to First Nations communities could be more than $5 million.

The Great River Journey's inaugural trip will be held at the beginning of summer 2007.

"The Great River Journey project illustrates what governments, First Nations, and private enterprise can do when they work together on economic development and tourism," said Minister Prentice. "Canada's New Government is pleased to support this world-class endeavour, which helps Yukoners compete in the international tourism industry and provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience for its clients as they enjoy the beauty and unique history of the Yukon."

The project will be funded through the federal Targeted Investment Program, which is a component of the Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development initiative.

"We're proud of the Great River Journey project," said George Asquith, a partner in the initiative. "The funding we received from the Targeted Investment Program made the task of getting this business up and running possible for all the partners involved."

"I am honoured to speak on behalf of the four First Nations, which, as partners in Great River Journey, have taken a significant position in developing this Yukon-based tourism product," said Judy Gingell, FNIC spokesperson. "The Great River Journey will take place on and through our traditional lands and showcase our history and culture. We look forward to

welcoming Great River Journey guests; we know we will have a special relationship with them."

The Targeted Investment Program (TIP) is one of a series of northern economic development programs offered by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada under the umbrella framework of Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development. The goal of TIP is to expand business and employment opportunities for Northerners, improve diversification of the territorial economies, and increase economic self-reliance.

For further information, contact:

Line Gagnon,
Communications Manager
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada - Yukon Region
(867) 667-3315

Great Northern Journey Inc.
George Asquith
Great River Journey
(867) 456-2421

FNIC Development Corporation
Judy Gingell
(867) 333-3191

Backgrounder - Great River Journey

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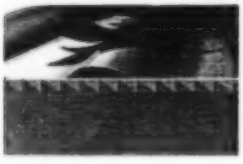

BACKGROUNDER

Great River Journey

The Great River Journey project is the first geotourism offering in the Canadian North. Participants will spend eight days on a world-class wilderness river safari that takes them back in time, in history, and deeper into the wilderness with each stop. Small groups will travel by day in their own riverboat with a pilot and an experienced local guide. Frequent landings will be made to view wildlife, explore the wilderness, visit historical and geological sites, and rest and relax.

The Great River Journey is jointly owned by Great Northern Journeys Incorporated and First Nation Investment Corporation (FNIC), a consortium of four First Nations: the Kwanlin Dün First Nation; the Selkirk First Nation; the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council; and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation.

The Great River Journey will pass through the traditional lands of the four First Nations. The company will provide employment opportunities for First Nations citizens, who will be among those hosting, guiding, and caring for guests. Between 6 and 10 full-time permanent positions and between 30 and 60 seasonal positions are expected to be created. Tours will begin in 2007.

This project will provide the First Nations with an opportunity to showcase their cultures and histories; other Yukon stories will be remembered as well. Two nights will be spent at Upper Laberge Lodge (a Yukon riverboat stop dating back to the 1930s), two nights at Homestead Lodge (a wilderness homestead built in 1901), two nights at Fort Selkirk (a historic site preserved in the wilderness), one night at Wilderness Outpost (an 1840s trading post), and two nights in Dawson City (the centre of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898 and a National Historic Site of Canada).

The Indian and Northern Affairs Canada contribution of $1.75 million represents 35 percent of total funding received by the Great River Journey. Both Great River Journey Inc. and FNIC Development Corporation applied for funding under the Targeted Investment Program in 2005. A total of $975,000 was approved for year one (2005-2006) of the project: $480,000 for Great River Journey Inc.; and $495,000 for FNIC Development Corporation. $775,000 is the portion of funds for year two (2006-2007), and will ensure the project's completion in time for its inaugural launch in the summer of 2007.

Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development

The Targeted Investment Program is one of two main programs under Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development initiative, which focuses on strengthening the

economic foundations of all three territories. Funding allocations under the Targeted Investment Program are guided by multi-year investment plans tailored to the needs of each territory. The investment plan for Yukon was developed cooperatively by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Yukon Government, and the Council of Yukon First Nations, with input from other economic players.

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